

# SILVERWOOD LAKE

## Our Mission

To manage and protect the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State's people, and to protect, restore and enhance the natural and human environments.



### STATISTICS

#### Silverwood Lake

Maximum Operating Storage:  
74,970 acre-feet

Shoreline.....13 miles

Surface.....980 acres

#### Cedar Springs Dam

Height.....249 feet

Length.....2,230 feet

Crest Elevation.....3,378 feet

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit DWR's Website at  
<http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov>  
or email us at [PAOPublications@water.ca.gov](mailto:PAOPublications@water.ca.gov)

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1-800-272-8869





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## THE STATE WATER PROJECT

Planned, designed, constructed and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Project (SWP) is the largest State-built, multi-purpose, user-financed, water project in the United States.

The SWP, spanning more than 600 miles from Northern California to Southern California, includes 34 storage facilities, 20 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, five hydroelectric powerplants, and approximately 700 miles of canals, tunnels, and pipelines.

The SWP’s main purpose is to provide a water supply – that is, to divert and store water during wet periods and distribute it to areas of need during dry periods in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California. Other project purposes include flood control, power generation, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and water quality improvements to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The \$1.75 billion bond issue of 1960 provided initial funding for the SWP and payments received from 29 contracting agencies are paying off the bonds. These 29 urban and agricultural water agencies have long-term contracts for the delivery of SWP water. Approximately 70 percent of SWP water goes to urban users and 30 percent to agricultural users. These SWP contracting agencies are repaying the cost, including interest, of financing, building, operating, and maintaining the SWP water storage and delivery system.



Silverwood Lake is the highest State Water Project Reservoir in Southern California.

## SILVERWOOD LAKE

Located 30 miles north of the City of San Bernardino, Silverwood Lake is one of four SWP reservoirs in Southern California operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The other lakes are Castaic, Pyramid, and Perris. At an elevation of 3,355-feet, Silverwood Lake is the highest SWP reservoir in Southern California. The reservoir, which was constructed from 1968 to 1971, provides regulatory and emergency water storage.

Water deliveries from Silverwood Lake serve nearly 15 million water users in portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties.

## HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENT

Before settlers arrived, Native Americans lived in this area in small groups of 20 to 30 people. Spanish missionaries later travelled through the Mojave River Valley where Silverwood Lake would be created.

The lake was named for W.E. “Ted” Silverwood, a Riverside County resident who worked to bring water to Southern California. Cedar Springs Dam was named for the small town in the valley that was once home to about 200 residents and weekend visitors. The Dam, on the west fork of

the Mojave River, was completed in 1971. Water deliveries began in 1972.

Diverse habitats around the lake foster many species of wildlife and offer refuge to many migratory waterfowl, including Canadian geese and ruddy ducks. Bald eagles often winter and forage at the lake.

## THE WATER JOURNEY

Water reaches Silverwood from the East Branch of the California Aqueduct. It is pumped up 542 feet from the Antelope Valley floor to an elevation of 3,479 feet by Pearlblossom Pumping Plant east of Palmdale. Flowing downhill through an open aqueduct, the water is then piped underground into three 11,600-foot-long-pipelines that traverse the Mojave River bed and Las Flores Valley floor.

Then, water travels through the 29.4–megawatt Mojave Siphon Powerplant and into Silverwood Lake. The inlet is west of the dam spillway. From the south end of Silverwood, water travels through the 3.8-mile San Bernardino Tunnel and plunges 1,400 feet into Devil Canyon Powerplant. After power production, some of the water is taken by users directly from the afterbay. The rest of the water enters the East Branch Extension or the Santa Ana Pipeline into Lake Perris for delivery to the SWP’s southernmost water contractors.

## RECREATION

Thousands of people are attracted year-round to the hourglass-shaped lake for many recreational activities, including swimming, boating, waterskiing, fishing, hiking, camping, picnicking, and bicycling. The 2,400-acre Silverwood Lake Recreation Area is operated by the California State Park System.

The most common fish in the lake include catfish, bluegill, largemouth bass, striped bass, and crappie. Check with park rangers for fishing seasons and best locations.

Please be sure to follow all park rules and observe safety as a boater, water-skier, and angler. Watch for poison oak and rattlesnakes. Complete recreation information can be obtained from the park office, (619) 389-2303, 14651 Cedar Circle, Hesperia, CA 92345.



Boating is popular at Silverwood Lake.